

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR YO

SUBJ: GRlichko SISIT TO MOSCOW

1. PRAVDA MAY 18 REPORTED MAY 14-17 VISIT TO USSR OF YUGOSLAV PARTY SECRETARY GRlichkov AND HIS MEETINGS WITH CPSU SECRETARIES PONOMAREV AND KATUSHEV. ACCORDING TO TASS ACCOUNT, MEETING WAS MAINLY TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE AND TOOK PLACE IN A "WARM AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" AND ONE OF "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

2. ACCORDING TO A YUGOSLAV PRESS SOURCE, WHO ATTENDED A MOSCOW BRIEFING BY GRlichkov, THE PURPOSE OF
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GRlichkov's UNANNOUNCED VISIT WAS TO GET THE SOVIETS TO

"CANCEL" THE DOCUMENT INTRODUCED BY THE GDR AT THE RECENT BERLIN CONSULTATION MEETING, WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS BOYCOTTED. THE YUGOSLAVS REPORTEDLY WANT TO GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE ON THE CONFERENCE--THAT IS, TO A SERIES OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. GRILCHKOV REPORTEDLY SAID AT THE BRIEFING THAT THE YUGOSLAVS DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIETS OR CONFIRM A SPLIT; BUT THEY CANNOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENT SUCH AS THE ONE PROPOSED BY THE EAST GERMANS. THE ONLY DOCUMENT THEY CAN APPROVE IS ONE WHICH SIMPLY LISTS SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE.

3. THE YUGOSLAV SOURCE HERE REPORTED THE SOVIET REACTION AS ONE OF UNDERSTANDING BUT ALSO OF UNWILLINGNESS TO SUGGEST ANY WAYS TO MOVE FROM THE IMPASSE.

4. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE DESCRIBED AS GLAD THAT IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS CONFERENCE THEY ARE FULL PLAYERS IN THE GAME AND THUS ABLE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN AT EVERY STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS. THIS REPRESENTS A DIFFERENCE FROM THE PRE-KARLOVY VARY SITUATION IN 1967, WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT INVITED(AND PRESUMABLY DID NOT ASK) TO BE INCLUDED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE YUGOSLAV SOURCE, THE YUGOSLAVS DO NOT HAVE ANY APPETITE FOR TAKING THE LEADERSHIP OF ANY DISSIDENT GROUPINGS (E.G., INCLUDING THE ROMANIANS AND THE ITALIANS) IN THE PRELIMINARIES TO THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT. THE CURRENT SOVIET HARD-LINE ON THE CONFERENCE CERTAINLY RISKS AT SOME POINT A YUGOSLAV BOYCOTT OF CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND OF THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIETS REMAIN INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE YUGOSLAVS--AS WELL AS OTHER RECALCITRANTS--INVOLVED, IF POSSIBLE. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE SOVIETS AT A LATER STAGE MOVED SLIGHTLY OFF THE TOUGH EAST GERMAN DOCUMENT IN HOPES OF GETTING HIGH MARKS FOR FLEXIBILITY WHILE IN FACT GIVING AWAY VERY LITTLE.

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